

CANADIAN DIGEST

MOVING PICTURE

Vol. 21, No. 2

TORONTO 2, CANADA

May 11th, 1929

Look At This List!

Have you ever seen so many hits from one company in one season?

OUR DANCING DAUGHTERS

Joan Crawford!

WHITE SHADOWS

in the South Seas

A WOMAN OF AFFAIRS

John Gilbert! Greta Garbo!

Clarence Brown direction!

THE FLYING FLEET

Ramon Novarro!

ALIAS JIMMY VALENTINE

William Haines!

WILD ORCHIDS

Greta Garbo!

THAT'S METRO-Goldwyn-MAYER

Looks like a complete release list, doesn't it?—but no—it's an honest-to-goodness listing of real hits.

THE DUKE STEPS OUT

William Haines!

THE VOICE OF THE CITY

Willard Mack's talkie!

THE IDLE RICH

"The White Collars" talkie!

and now on Broadway

MADAME X with Ruth Chatterton

THE TRIAL OF MARY DUGAN

with Norma Shearer, Lewis Stone, Raymond Hackett

The first talking appearance of Miss Shearer

THE BROADWAY MELODY

*with Charles King
Bessie Love, Anita Page*



PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

THE KIBITZER MURDER CASE

or "Who Killed The Kibitzer?"



It doesn't matter who killed him because Kibitzers never die!

—you find them everywhere



THE CARD KIBITZER—he tells you how it should have been played!



THE STOCK MARKET KIBITZER—he knew that Steel was going up!



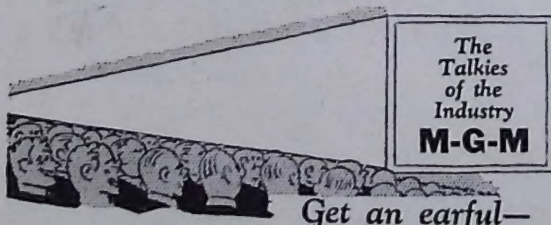
THE RESTAURANT KIBITZER—he advises what's good for your health!



THE MERGER KIBITZER—he knew the inside stuff all along!

Don't listen to them. Get the facts yourself and make your own decisions!

DON'T LISTEN TO TALK unless IT'S on the SCREEN!



Get an earful—



Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer brings you for immediate booking, three All-Talking pictures that make previous talking efforts look very amateurish indeed:

1. THE BROADWAY MELODY



THERE will have to be another invention like the Talkies to bring forth another "Broadway Melody." It is unique. It is the first to present as a thrilling drama the wonders of a \$6.60 Broadway show. No surprise therefore that in its 3d month in New York and Los Angeles at \$2 it is an S.R.O. sensation. In Cleveland it converted the pop price Stillman to the \$2 class! It is currently playing extended runs in many houses previously restricted to one week and performing such box-office miracles as this industry has never before seen—nor may ever again witness.

With Charles King, Anita Page, Boris Lane. Directed by Harry Beaumont.

2. The Trial of MARY DUGAN



PROFITABLE as it was as a stage hit during its sensational Broadway run, and with its many goldmine road companies, watch the meteoric course of "The Trial of Mary Dugan" when it is revealed to a waiting nationwide public on the magic Talking screen. The Talking picture version is marvelous. All the drama, the heart-appeal, the physical lure, the humanity of "The Trial of Mary Dugan" have become intensified on the screen. Already it is a magnet at the Embassy, N. Y., where it plays at \$2 Twice Daily to packed and enthusiastic houses. You will reap a harvest too!

With Norma Shearer, Lewis Stone, H. B. Warner, Raymond Hackett. Directed by the author, Edward Viller.

3. THE IDLE RICH



THE perfect vehicle for the Talking picture. Many producers eagerly sought the thrilling Broadway and Road success "White Collars." Its dramatic story, its humanness, its color stamped it unquestionably as the Big opportunity for audible films. M-G-M obtained it and has made a brilliant Talking entertainment. A worthy companion picture for "The Broadway Melody" and "The Trial of Mary Dugan." You will enjoy the same kind of phenomenal, new Era business with "The Idle Rich." Book these three Talking hits. Insure for yourself a miraculous profit on your talking investment.

With Conrad Nagel, Bette Love, Lella Hyams, Dr. Elisha Miller. Directed by William de Mille.

And here's a prophecy—

The TALKIES of the INDUSTRY!

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has ushered in a new era of Talking pictures with its big Road-show-size attractions. Up-to-date theatres must now play Talking pictures of "Broadway Melody" calibre. Exhibitors to safeguard their huge Sound investments must look to M-G-M hereafter for the Big Time Talking Pictures. This is true not alone of M-G-M full-length Talkies, but likewise of Metro Movietone Acts, which are vastly superior to all others in reproductive quality and in the box-office value of names! And now M-G-M is bringing to wired theatres Hal Roach All-Talking Comedies in which Our Gang, Laurel-Hardy, Charlie Chase and the Roach All-Stars talk to their public for the first time. M-G-M is concededly releasing the outstanding silent pictures of the day. It was to be expected that Young Blood, too, would leap to the Top of the Talkies!

STILL THEY COME!

If Broadway Melody business continues I will have to call out the National Guard as the local police threaten to arrest me for blocking traffic on Pearl Street. And this is not maybe. Never in the history of Albany show business have such mobs congregated around any theatre in Albany from ten a. m. until midnight.

—C. H. Buckley, Leland, Albany, N.Y.

Broadway Melody opened State Theatre to record breaking business. Thousands turned away. Accept our congratulations for the year's greatest picture.

—W. L. McConnell, State, Youngstown, O.

Just completed tremendous week's business with the Broadway Melody. Picture such a great hit that we are bringing it back to other first run house.

—Harry Zeitz, State, New Bedford, Mass.

Broadway Melody smashing all previous records at the Columbia. Press and public acclaiming it the greatest of entertainment. Expect to break the long run record for Washington. Regards.

—M. J. Cullen, Washington, D.C.

"Great work, Leo, you solved the Kibitzer Murder Case!"



METRO-GOLDWYN MAYER



We Play With the Big Ones

TIFFANY PRODUCTIONS
OF CANADA LIMITED

The Better Entertainment Silent and Sound

"MOLLY AND ME"

IS the kind of Picture just made for Your Audience.

BELLE Bennett sings and talks for the first time; and those who have had the pleasure of "listening in," hope that Belle Bennett will continue to talk and sing in many more pictures.

JOE E. Brown is the male element which furnishes the love interest in this Romance of the Foot-lights. He and Belle Bennett in "Molly and Me" furnish the greatest team for rib-cracking laughs and heart-breaking love you have ever seen.

**Coming to Loew's Theatre,
Toronto**

Tiffany Productions of Canada Ltd.

Toronto - Montreal - St. John - Winnipeg - Calgary - Vancouver

Administrators Sale of Real Estate

Under and by virtue of the powers vested in them as Administrators of the estate of John Anthony Hamer, late of the Town of Prescott in the County of Grenville, Merchant, deceased, the Capital Trust Corporation will offer for sale by public auction on Wednesday, the 22nd day of May, 1929, at the Town Hall in the Town of Meaford in the County of Grey at the hour of 12 o'clock, noon, (daylight saving time), the following lands and premises; "All that messuage or tenement situate, lying and being in the Town of Meaford, in the County of Grey known as "The Star Theatre" being composed of the South west part of lot number Nineteen (19) on the North side of Collingwood Street of Sixty-six (66') feet and on Sykes Street of Ninety-nine (99') feet including the whole of the buildings erected thereon and its appurtenances and the equipment contained therein."

This theatre is on the corner of Collingwood Street facing City Hall Park. It is a two-storey solid brick building 60 x 99 and is fully equipped for moving pictures. The second storey is divided into two dwellings which are now rented for Fifteen Dollars per month each.

Terms of Sale: Ten per cent on purchase money to be paid to the Administrators or their Solicitor at the time of sale and balance within thirty days without interest.

The property will be sold subject to a reserve bid.

For further particulars apply to the Capital Trust Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario, or to the undersigned Solicitor.

Dated at Prescott this 24th day of April, 1929.

P. K. HALPIN,
Prescott, Ont.
Solicitor for Administrators.

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RAY LEWIS

Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 21, No. 2.

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"Up in the Clouds"

IT IS NOT so many years back since the word "Radio" was only interpreted by exhibitors as "opposition," or "competition."

Some of the little fellows shook their showmanship heads and kept on saying "we don't like Radio, it's going to cut into our business."

These exhibitors were not seeing into the future of "Talking and Sound Pictures." They were only prophetic in vision as Radio stepped into the home; and made the fireside more cheerful, more entertaining on nights which otherwise would have called to householders to sally forth in quest of entertainment.

The bigger boys, like "Roxy", spoke eulogistically of Radio. Even publicly made declarations before listening exhibitors, that Radio helped Motion Pictures.

Time has demonstrated that both little and big exhibitors were right. Radio has not only become a "competitor," or "opposition," through its home-work, but what it has done by way of revolutionizing this business, is to have foreseen the popular appeal of "Talking and Sound Pictures," stepping, not only into the Motion Picture Industry, but right up to the front of it with an ambition to be "the leader of the band." A leader, not only figuratively speaking, but literally, through fields which not only supply the artists to producers, but which supplies equipment to producers and exhibitors, and is getting to the public more directly through the ownership of theatres.

Shall I do a little prophesying, being an observer of "passing events?" Radio Corporation of America and its subsidiaries will control the field of amusement in America. This company will not miss a nickel, nor a dime in a field which gets the public at home; and in theatres, for the television with its talking pictures as an attachment to Radio is already upon the doorsteps of our home; and world events will also be flashed upon our screens from the same Radio stations.

A few years ago this kind of talk might have been all "up in the clouds," but today The World is literally "up in the clouds," there is no Time, nor Space in the dimension of Man's calculations, for this Age of Science has removed these formerly necessary props of measurement.

To-day Man talks to his kind across continents, talks to them face to face through television, and flies to them like a "streak of lightning, making Space an insignificant factor in the Realm of Doing! Radio is "up in the clouds," it is The Commercial God of this Non-Stop Civilization!

Ray Lewis

RADIO



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE ABSORPTION of the Victor Talking Machine Co. by the Radio Corp. of America, links up the sales of both companies into a sum totalling \$170,000,000 a year.

The R. C. A. recently entered into an arrangement with the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, whereby it disposed of its radio communications business to the latter company.

The policy of Radio is to build around its broadcasting business an organization which will dominate the Motion Picture Industry, the phonograph, the vaudeville stage, in short, the entire range of popular entertainment.

The Keith-Albee-Orpheum Corp. deal, the FBO deal; and various other deals through which R. C. A. Photophone, Inc., has become a factor in our Industry, are but as preludes to far-reaching affiliations, the latest announcement being an affiliation with the Paramount-Famous Lasky Corp.

GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD, R. C. A. President, has announced the formation of Radio-Victor Corp. of America, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the R. C. A. The sales organizations, laboratories and factories have been brought together under R. C. A. management.

The announcement further contains information to the effect that Radio will this year market new models of radio sets and talking machines "embodying radically new principles of design," and that this company will enter the low-priced field.

The various announcements of Radio's Motion Picture and Theatre activities have, during the past year, been reflected in the stock market, which from time to time has presented leaders for trading.

When the Victor tie-up was announced last January the R. C. A. stock jumped fifty points and Victor took a twenty-five point leap ahead.

The affiliated companies and subsidiaries of Radio at present are, in addition to Victor, National Broadcasting Co., R. C. A. Photophone, Inc., the Radio Communications Service, Radio Marine Corp., of America, Radio-Keith-Orpheum, FBO; and a working arrangement with Pathe News Reel and its Distributing Organization.

In 1928 R. C. A. did about \$102,000,000 worth of business, its gross sales amounting to \$82,000,000.

The Victor business for 1928 was in the neighborhood of \$68,000,000, under the R.C.A. arrangement, more than 99 per cent. of the common stock of the Victor Co. has been deposited by Victor shareholders. The new company has on its board of directors representa-

tives of General Electric, Westinghouse and R. C. A.

General Electric and Westinghouse own the largest blocks of R. C. A. and are associated in all R. C. A.'s activities.

CARRY ON SERGEANT," the Canadian International Films production, again came into The Spotlight, when O. R. Barrett, counsel for International, obtained an adjournment of two weeks in the bankruptcy proceedings against the debtor company from Mr. Justice Rose at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Wednesday, May 8th.

Mr. Barrett informed the Court that he had just received a telephone call which assures him that the company, through financial assistance promised, would be in a position to pay 100 cents on the dollar.

JULES BERNSTEIN, Manager of Loew's Theatre, Toronto, unveiled a bronze tablet of Marcus Loew, in the lobby of the Loew Theatre, where it will be placed in memory of the founder of the chain of theatres bearing Loew's name. These bronze tablets will be placed in all the Loew Theatres, and the unveiling was the occasion of the fifty-ninth anniversary of the birth of Marcus Loew (May 7th, 1870).

Loew's State Theatre participated in a similar unveiling, conducted by Mr. Nicholas Schenck, President. Present at this ceremony were the home officials and employees. Mr. Schenck made a brief, but effective address during the ceremony.

"This little token of our affection implies to us, and to those who will later see it, that the spirit of the Loew organization continues as a priceless heritage from the man of whom it was said, 'He worked for others, he built for others, he lived for others, he died for others.'

"And so let us all at this moment pause briefly in a silent tribute to this heroic figure, who found the aim and goal of his life in giving to others. Our debt of gratitude and that of all humanity to Marcus Loew is measureless and enduring."

MARY PICKFORD in "Coquette" at Loew's was the biggest kind of opposition for Al Jolson in "The Singing Fool," at the Tivoli, but both theatres had the dearly-beloved "queue around-the-corner."

Jules Bernstein, Manager of Loew's, when seen Monday night, looked as if he were "coming up for water, or air."

The house was packed inside and outside; and "Bernie" was nearly all in trying to keep "everybody happy."

There was no time to eat, sleep, talk, nor
(Continued on Page 8)

SCOREDISC SOLVES SOUND PROBLEM

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CUEING TO BE DONE—

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SCOREDISC SUPPLIES A NEW SYNCHRONIZED SCORE FOR EACH FEATURE PICTURE—RELEASED AFTER AUG. 1, 1928. NO CUE SHEETS, ONLY SYNCHRONIZED SCORES THAT ANYONE CAN USE.

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SCOREDISC IS SCORED READY TO PLAY—

*Demonstrations Given Daily at Our Office--
Arrangements Made for Out of Town Demonstrations*

WRITE FOR SAMPLE SCOREDISC

Sole Canadian Distributors

PERKINS ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED

21 Wilton Square, Toronto

2027 Bleury St., Montreal

402 Film Exchange Bldg., Winnipeg

Ray Presents

(Continued from Page 6)

think, the box-office was running a tape so far ahead of previous records, that new figures were established.

TOM DALEY was "smiling all over"; and your editor smiled "all over also. If there is one thing I love to see it is packed theatres. I just can't leave a packed house. It gives me the kind of thrill, a fire-horse gets when he hears the gong of fire, I literally inhale the crowds; and when this is in order I forget to criticize the ventilation.

Mary was as good as ever in "Coquette," perhaps better than ever; and looking at Mary's trim little eighteen-year-old figure, that is what it looked like, I never realized that Mary had such "beautiful eyes." They were noticeable in the white evening frock. But we will tell you all about "Coquette" in our next issue. It's good. You will like it; and so will the box-office.

AL JOLSON in "The Singing Fool" created a handkerchief sale. Anyone who enjoys a good weep can satisfy their yearnings with this picture. Tom says it should "click" for five weeks. The price on handkerchiefs should go up. You notice I've caught the publicity talk?

Al sings a bunch of songs like only Al Jolson can sing them, besides there is a "kid" in the picture that any mother would be glad to own, with or without a wedding ring. No one blamed its mother in the picture for taking "Sonny Boy" with her when she found her singing husband tiresome. But I told you all about "The Singing Fool" sometime ago, when I saw it in New York; and since Shakespeare never repeats, why can't I follow a real man's example?

COL. JOHN COOPER has just returned from a trip to the Coast. He is sold on Talking Pictures, their mechanical perfection. But Col. Cooper's story is another "newsy bit" I am saving for next week. You know what they say, "never put all your eggs in one basket," which in Motion Picture news parlance might mean, "save a few good eggs" for the next issue. Col. Cooper is one of the "good eggs" I am saving.

Columbia's picture, "The Donovan Affair," a talking and singing feature was held over for two weeks at Pantages Coast Theatre. The picture was directed by Frank Capra and features Dorothy Revier and Jack Holt. The Los Angeles Record, records that "It's a Wow," and adds "Columbia Pictures has done it again."

TIFFANY-STAHLE has signed Leo Carillo, that most excellent artist, for four pictures. Carillo's success in "Lombardi Ltd.," "The Bad Man," "The Dove" has made theatre history.

UNIVERSAL'S "Show Boat" is said to have given the "hard-boiled" previewers a thrill at Grauman's Los Angeles Theatre. Spontaneous bursts of applause punctuated the showing.

Motion Picture News calls "Show Boat," "a straight from the shoulder hit," and in breezy style goes on further in its praise by stating, "Carl Laemmle and the Universal producing staff used the brains God gave them in making this one. It is undoubtedly the biggest box-office value Universal has made in its long history."

Victoria Players Meet Death In Apartment House Fire

TORONTO was the scene of a tragedy which stirred, not only the Motion Picture and Theatrical Interests here, but Toronto as a whole, when a fire took as its toll the lives of two theatrical members of the Victoria Stock Co., Margaret Bird and Forrester Cummings, early Tuesday morning, May 7th.

The Victoria Players is a stock company presenting plays at the Victoria Theatre, Shea's former vaudeville theatre, Victoria and Richmond Sts.

Joe Lightstone is Manager of the theatre for the Consolidated Amusements, which organization operates Motion Picture and legitimate houses throughout the Province of Quebec, and in some centres of Ontario.

THE PLAY for the week was "The Torch Bearers." The production had entailed much application on the part of the director and players; and when the performance ended Monday night, Mr. James Coots, the leading man invited several of the players to his apartment at the Balmoral for a little supper.

The party broke up at 2 A.M. and Miss Bird and Mr. Forrester left together. Miss Bird occupied an apartment in the Balmoral Apts., and Mr. Coots states, she and Mr. Forrester left for Miss Bird's apartment, following a suggestion by Miss Bird to Mr. Forrester that she would give him some medicine for his cold.

TWO HOURS later Mrs. J. Carnegie, proprietress of the Balmoral was awakened by an odour of fire.

Firemen found the charred body of Miss Bird in bed, and the remains of Mr. Forrester huddled up against the door of the hall leading from the sitting room, where Forrester had evidently attempted to make his escape. No other deaths occurred. Another tenant saved his life by jumping from a window.

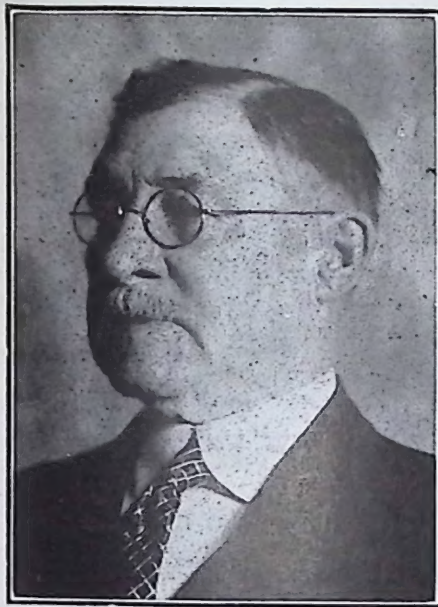
WHEN interviewed, following the tragedy, Mr. Lightstone was overwhelmed with grief. Eyes red and swollen with weeping, he spoke in a tremulous voice, of the beauty and grace, the charm and ability of Margaret Bird, who had only joined the company three weeks ago. Mr. Lightstone extolled the directorial ability, the co-operative spirit of Forrester Cummings, and in Shakespeare's immortal words said, "I shall never look upon his like again."

Services for Mr. Cummings took place in Toronto, Friday, May 10th. Interment at Prospect Cemetery. Rev. Canon Skey conducted the service at the funeral parlors of Bates and Dodds. Ralph and Robert Cummings, brothers of the deceased, notified Mr. Lightstone of their wishes in the matter. Neither of the brothers were able to attend, but a large representation of Toronto's theatrical fraternity, and sympathizing citizens were present.

MISS CHARLOTTE BIRD, a sister of the unfortunate Margaret Bird, arrived from New York, accompanying the body of her sister to New York, where interment will take place.

Mr. Lightstone is to be commended for his ceaseless efforts to locate relatives and friends of the victims of this fire; and for his general interest in looking after those "who had passed on." Our sincere regrets and sympathy are extended to Mr. Lightstone and the Victoria Players, who "carried on so courageously," although "Death had marked the lintels of their door" taking from them two comrade-players and friends.

HE HAS PASSED ON



THE LATE J. C. BRADY

JOHN CROSBY BRADY was born at Millbrook, Ontario, Oct. 22nd, 1853.

At 16 years of age he entered the service of the Grand Trunk Railway, starting as Brakesman in the days of the old wood burner engines, Lincoln pin Couplers, hand-brakes on each car, at a time when it was the duty of a brakesman, on engineer's whistle for "Down Brakes," to run along the top of a car to put on the hand-brake.

The distance between the cars, with old goose neck couplers, was three feet and over, and train-

men would have to run and jump across to the next car.

Very few if any of the railway men who were rail-roading those days are alive today.

WHEN the Fenian Raid broke out in 1866, Mr. Brady joined the Grand Trunk Battalion as a member of the Railway Brigade and saw active service.

In 1874 he came to Lindsay, Ontario, to take charge of the first passenger train on the old Victoria Railway under the supervision of the late Mr. James Ross.

When the Credit Valley Railroad was built by Mr. James Ross he came to Toronto, and served many years on the Credit Valley Railroad as Passenger Conductor from Toronto to St. Thomas. The Credit Valley Railway was amalgamated with C.P.R. and Mr. Brady continued in the service of the C. P. R. until the year 1890.

He was the owner, for a number of years of the Vendome Hotel, Yonge and Wilton Avenue, now Wilton Square, the site of the present Childs Building.

IN 1913 Mr. Brady entered the Theatre Business, and built the Madison Theatre Building, Bloor St. West, at Bathurst St., one of the first modern suburban houses. This period belonged to the early days of Motion Pictures, the old days of the General Film Company, the Mutual and the Universal, the day of the one-reelers, and even before the features were two-reelers.

Such stars as Mary Fuller, Wallace Reid, Mary Pickford, Marguerite Clark, Cleo Ridgley, Pauline Frederick, Theodore Roberts, John Bunny, etc., etc., made their bow before the screen.

Among his exhibitor activities is the inauguration of the Canadian Exhibitors' Exchange, of which association he was a member for quite a number of years, afterwards becoming President of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners Association.

MR. BRADY was very active in exhibitor's association work, being to a large extent responsible for the organization of the M.P.T.O.A. of Canada, to which

he continued to give his active support and co-operation up to the very period of his death.

He attended every M.P.T.O. Convention held in the U.S. since 1924, Boston, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Columbus, Ohio, etc., etc., these Conventions being indeed stimulated and graced by his active presence.

He was "one of the boys" in the truest sense of the word; and he had a reputation for sincerity and stability, which could do honour to any man.

It is rather interesting to note that he had a mind naturally adapted to the technicalities of law; and could, by just glancing over a document, find its legal loopholes and technical securities, although he had no legal training.

THE WRITER looked upon Mr. Brady as an old friend; and it is difficult to accept the "passing away" of such an interesting and active personality, although "his years were full" in the true acceptance of that phrase.

The Industry of Canada loses one of its veteran showmen, and the M.P.T.O.A. one of its staunchest and most faithful advocates.

Mr. Brady had many personal friends among his business acquaintances; and all will grieve with the writer that "Death is Inevitable" and that one's friends must pass on.

A RECENT sermon by the Canadian poet, Dr. Robert Norwood, pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, has within its message some lines particularly fitting for this occasion.

Dr. Norwood's sermon is titled "In a Mysterious Way." This message is founded on St. John XVI., verses 16-18 (Moffatt's translation) and reads:

"In a little while, you will behold me no longer; then, after a little you shall see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, 'What does he mean by telling us, 'In a little while, you shall behold me no longer; then, after a little, you shall see me?' and, 'I go to the Father?' They said, 'What is the meaning of 'In a little?' we do not understand what he is saying'."

AND DR. NORWOOD interprets the words which passed between Jesus and his disciples during "The Last Supper," the significance of which appears to have mystified His disciples, as follows, "Death does not terminate relationships. Death does not frustrate the soul. Death is not darkness. Death is a little while of the endless path that leads past universes into the nearer presence of God."

Blessed indeed is the message of Immortality. It is the answer to the Living, the answer for The Dead.

Mr. Brady's death came after a short illness. He was operated upon at the General Hospital, Toronto, to remove an obstruction in the intestinal tract. The operation was a most serious one, but gamelike as he always was, he ordered his surgeon, his family, to make the necessary arrangements.

Death came peacefully on Sunday, May 5th, 1929, in his 77th year. The funeral service was held in St. Peter's Church, Bathurst St., Wednesday, May 8th, at 9 A.M. A widow and six sons survive him, Stafford, William, John, Norman, Leo and Cyril.

Requiescat in Pace.

Baldwin International Radio Suit

WIDE interest has been aroused in an action brought at Toronto, Ontario, by the Baldwin International Radio of Canada, Limited, against the Tivoli Theatre of Toronto, Limited, and Famous Players Canadian Corp., for \$100,000 damages for the alleged wrongful use of the trademark "Vitaphone," which the plaintiff company claims to control in the Dominion. Evidence in the case was heard at Osgoode Hall, Toronto.

Almost simultaneously the DeForest Phonofilm of Canada, Limited, Montreal, has threatened legal action against all and any theatres using sound-track films in Canada without a license from the DeForest company, claiming that it holds prior patent claims in the Dominions for sound-track devices. Notice has been given by DeForest Phonofilm of Canada, Limited that "the only Canadian patents granted to date on devices for reproduction of sound on film are the DeForest patents held by this company," and it is announced that procedure by law will be taken against those who do not secure a license from the company.

IN the Baldwin vs. Famous Players case, the Baldwin company claims ownership of the trade name "Vitaphone" through an assignment of the registered trademark at Ottawa in January, 1927, the name "Vitaphone" having been previously registered by the former Canadian Vitaphone Company, it is stated, for use in connection with sound reproducing and radio products. In the statement of claim, it is asserted that the Tivoli Theatre and Famous Players have wrongfully made use of the title "Vitaphone" in billboard, newspaper and theatre advertising when the equipment used in the Tivoli Theatre was not the product of the Baldwin International Radio of Canada, Limited.

WHEN the first Fox Movietone pictures were presented at the Palace Theatre, Montreal, last September, Canadian DeForest sued Fox and Famous Players for \$25,000 damages, alleging infringement of patents in the use of the sound-on-track equipment. The suit against Fox was thrown out, but the action against Famous Players has not been settled, it is understood.

Aronson For Europe

THE European eye of World Wide Pictures is Alexander S. Aronson, associate to J. D. Williams, and the company's representative abroad. Mr. Aronson, who has been in New York for some time seeing the good ship get set on its course, will soon return to Europe, where he will observe overseas product, and confer with producers concerning the requirements of the American market.

From his post of observation in London there passes before this official all of the worthwhile pictures made in England, and he is in touch with all those pictures made in other countries that might prove acceptable in the United States and Canada. It is an interesting post, and an important one, for it is up to him to safeguard existing contracts, seek new production sources and decide what pictures shall be sent to America for selection at the home office.

Mr. Aronson is well acquainted with producers abroad, and enjoys the confidence of the entire picture industry in Europe.

New Standard Record Device

SINCE the introduction of Scoredisc Service there have been many exhibitor inquiries concerning the principles of this new invention in the art of reproduced musical and effect scores for motion pictures. As considerable confusion appears in the minds of many exhibitors judged by the questions regarding the Scoredisc, the following detailed description of the device and its operation in the theatre, prepared by Arthur J. Abrams, inventor of the device and head of the company manufacturing and distributing it, is presented:

IN SCORING pictures by the Scoredisc method, we take a print of a feature picture, project and re-project it working out a musical and sound effect score during the screening of the action.

"Having determined those musical excerpts and sound effects which will form a proper sound accompaniment, we select from the thousands of records at our disposal, those bearing the precise selections and effects which will be incorporated in the score.

"Then we place our Disc, a flat round object made of heavy cardboard, over the individual records previously selected and score the disc by cutting through to the grooves of the record containing the predetermined melodies and sounds. The 'slots' thus formed in our Scoredisc represent the portions of the records which will be produced.

SCOREDISCS come in pairs, marked A and B, one for each turntable of the non-synchronous sound reproducer. On each pair of Scoredisc is contained the automatic score for an entire feature picture sound accompaniment.

"In picking out the records to be used the person should first find the highest 'slot' numbers on both A and B Scorediscs which bear, in addition, the numbers of the records to be used with those 'slots.' The next step is to set them, the record to be used last with Scorediscs A on that side of the turntable, that for Scoredisc B, beside that turntable. The last records to be used should be first picked out so that they will be at the bottom of the stacks when operation of the sound device is started.

THE OPERATOR then takes the first record off the stack on the A side and places it on one of the turntables placing the A Scoredisc over it. The needle is inserted in slot number one penetrating to the record grooves which are to be played. While the needle is traversing the length of 'slot' 1 on Scoredisc A, the first record to be placed on the other turntable and Scoredisc B is placed over it.

BY THE TIME the needle or disc A has about traversed the length of that 'slot' and the music for the particular scene has about run its course, the motor of the turntable bearing Scoredisc B now is started and, by the time it has the turntable running at the proper speed, 'slot' No. 1, Scoredisc A is finished. The sound volume indicator is turned slowly from the turntable bearing A Scoredisc to that bearing B, bringing about a fade-out of music from record and a fade-in for the music which will be played under 'slot' No. 2 on B."

Edmonton Journal Gives Germany First Place for Pictures

Special to Digest From Winnipeg.

THE Edmonton, Alberta, Journal, one of the Southam newspapers, says editorially of British films in a recent issue:

"The British film industry, enjoying a measure of government backing, is planning an energetic campaign to increase its export business. The inhabitants of Los Angeles have no monopoly of the talent for making motion pictures. Their powerful hold is due to a succession of accidents; and was obtained at a time when the European nations were too busily engaged in war to make much headway in developing a new art form.

"Now, however, artistic leadership in the film world has definitely passed from the United States to Europe. Germany is producing the finest pictures of the day.

"Great Britain is a little behind in technical achievement, but there is no reason to suppose that a country which is so pre-eminent in the drama will continue to take second place in a kindred art.

"CANADIAN film theatres, it is to be hoped, will be wide open to the products of the British studios when the expected improvement in their quality occurs.

"An occasional change in the steady diet of Hollywood productions would be welcomed by many people in the Dominion, for both political and artistic reasons."

Western Sues Pacent Eight Patents Declared Violated

VIOLATION of eight patents is charged by the Western Electric Company of New York against the Pacent Electric Company and the Pacent Reproducer Corporation, in their equipment for reproducing sound pictures, in a suit brought by the Western Electric in U. S. District Court for the southern district of New York.

The patents in question were issued between 1915 and 1924 and are amongst a group of patents covering important features of the Western Electric System of recording and reproducing sound.

THE WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY, with which is associated the Northern Electric Company, through its subsidiary Electrical Research Products, Inc., developed, introduced and perfected the apparatus now being used in over sixteen hundred theatres throughout the world for the showing of talking motion pictures. It also developed and supplied the recording equipment being used by substantially all the producers in the motion picture industry. It is installing theatre equipment at the rate of over 250 per month in the United States alone and leasing these equipments on a time payment plan involving in the aggregate the extension of credit in large sums to theatre owners.

IN VIEW of the fact that the Western Electric System is represented in Canada by the Northern Electric Company, it will be interesting to watch the progress of this suit.

Out In Front, as Usual!

We are pleased to announce that in about two weeks we will have ready for delivery our CELCO (Celco) Disc Attachment for using 16-inch to 22-inch "Talking" Records.

It will fit all makes of projectors, attaching in a few minutes. All revolving parts slow speed. Positively geared to the mechanism main crank gear. Flexible shafting to gear reduction on heavy base. Locate it anywhere, preferable on floor under lamp. Turntable mounted on double set of ball bearings. The price will be surprisingly low. Watch for further announcement.

RECORD LIBRARY—

In addition to our present 101 Gennett Musical and Effect Records as well as new numbers when issued, we can now offer an additional 50 specially selected Victor Records of the finest music obtainable, these Victor Records being specially suited to Theatre use, excellent selections with no vocal choruses or vocal numbers. These 151 Records make up the finest Library obtainable. Write for complete list and prices.

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC Co. - 258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.

"Courtesy With Service"

British Empire Week Big For World Wide Pictures

THE MONTREAL DAILY STAR, in its Saturday, May 4th issue, had the following interesting comment to make in respect to World Wide Pictures:

"World Wide Pictures being a British organization and operating in Canada as well as in the United States, with offices throughout Canada from coast to coast, the management have been very successful in arranging extra play dates for British-made pictures for showing during British Empire week in Canada. This applies to all large centres from Atlantic to the Pacific coast.

For Montreal city, the United Amusement company have arranged with World Wide Pictures to show two British made productions at the Strand Theatre for four days, commencing Tuesday, May 28. "Tommy Atkins," the "Beau Geste" of the British Army, featuring Walter Byron and Lillian Hall-Davis, and "Honeymoon Abroad," featuring Monty Banks, are the two features selected for British Empire week. "Tommy Atkins" was actually made in England and in Egypt, while "Honeymoon Abroad" was made in France as well as England.

World Wide Pictures started in Canada about seven weeks ago and entered the field of pictures without any blowing of trumpets. Their pictures have been shown in all centres and from all reports, the theatre-going public of Montreal have a real treat in store in seeing new faces and newer scenes, as all World Wide Pictures are "made where the stories are laid."

For the week of May 19, Loew's Theatre will show their first World Wide production entitled "The Bondsman," from the famous novel by Sir Hall Caine, featuring Norman Kerry. The production was made in Sicily and the Isle of Man, where the story was laid.

The Famous Players Canadian circuit in Ontario and the western provinces are playing World Wide releases and have arranged for extra playing arrangements for British Empire Week.

"The Bondsman" will play Loew's, Montreal, May 19th. "Tommy Atkins" and "Moulin Rouge" will play the Strand, Montreal, May 28th, on a double feature bill. The United Amusements of Montreal has booked "Tommy Atkins" and "Honeymoon Abroad" over the circuit, while the Consolidated Organization has booked World Wide features in their theatres—Montreal, Sherbrooke and Verdun.



Scene from "Broadway Fever," a Tiffany-Stahl feature, starring Sally O'Neil.

Talking Pictures Excite Ottawa

NEVER before in the history of motion picture entertainment in Ottawa Ontario, has there been such extraordinary excitement as was seen recently when a veritable climax was reached locally in film presentations. The whole city was in a whirl because of the simultaneous introduction of audible pictures at two of the downtown theatres B. F. Keith's and the Centre, the former using the first R-C-A installation in the Dominion. On top of these "stirs" was the opening of "Broadway Melody" at the Regent. The attraction at Keith's was "Syncopation," while that at the Centre was Douglas Fairbanks in "The Iron Mask," the first United Artists talking feature to be seen in Ottawa.

APART from the regular openings, there were practically three midnight performances late Friday evening to usher in the new regime. The Regent was packed for a midnight presentation of "Broadway Melody" for which regular admissions were charged. Invitation performances were conducted at Keith's and the Centre with many guests in attendance. Crowds were turned away all day Saturday and the four other wired houses also registered sensational business, particular interest being shown in "The Lone Wolf's Daughter," at the Imperial, and "Lilac Time" at the Avalon, this being the first presentation of "Lilac Time" in Ottawa with synchronized effects.

VERY interesting are the new policies adopted by the respective managers. At Keith's, Manager J. M. Franklin drew up a schedule of continuous shows daily with the five vaudeville acts holding the boards three times daily. The previous rule was two performances daily. No advance in prices has been made for the sound films. At the Centre, Manager Don Stapleton raised prices 10 cents and arranged for the daily opening at 12 noon instead of 1.30 p.m.

PROMINENT film men of Canada visited Ottawa for the big day, including P. C. Taylor of Toronto, general manager of R-K-O Productions of Canada, Limited, who was particularly interested in the presentation of "Syncopation" at Keith's.

For Your Information

A COMMUNICATION from the Northern Electric Company's offices, Montreal, conveys the following information:

"**W**ILLIAM FOX, President of Fox Film Corporation, has issued an absolute denial of the cabled report from London which appeared simultaneously in the New York Times and the Montreal papers on April 30th, to the effect that his company had signed a contract with the Radio Corporation of America for reproducing Fox sound films in London on that company's equipment.

"Under the contract which the Fox Film Corporation has with the Western Electric Company in the States for the production and reproduction of pictures with sound, we are showing our Movietone productions all over the world in theatres equipped with Western Electric sound system. We not only have signed no contract with the Radio Corporation of America to use its system but we have no expectation of signing such an agreement in England or anywhere else as we consider the system we are now using eminently and universally successful."



Show Business



A HANDSOME new motion picture theatre, equipped with sound machines, will be at the Rialto Theatre at Edmonton, Alta.

When additions and improvements are completed. The cost of the changes will be \$30,000. The owners are the Rialto Theatres, Limited. The addition will be two stories in height, of brick construction, on concrete foundation, and the contractors are Permanent Construction Company, Edmonton.

The only city in the whole of the Canadian West to have Daylight Saving Time is Regina, Sask., where the clocks were changed May 5. The time was advanced also on the same date in Kingston, Ontario. Very few Ontario cities have Daylight Saving this year.

Considerable favorable comment has been heard in Ottawa, Ontario, over the action of P. J. Nolan, proprietor of the Avalon and other local theatres and prominent in Roman Catholic circles, in granting the use of the Avalon Theatre to St. Giles Presbyterian Church for church services until their new edifice was available.

Manager J. M. Franklin of B. F. Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, had a full page spread in the Ottawa Journal when "Syncopation" was recently played as the first audien at Keith's. A week later, on May 4, Manager T. R. Tubman of the Regent Theatre came back with a full page combination page for "The Singing Fool," opening on that date.

Premier Theatres, Limited, lessee of the Rideau Theatre at Smiths Falls, Ontario, is practically tearing down this house in order to bring it up to date. All but the four walls is being reconstructed and the exterior will be finished in stucco, the seating also being increased to 900. No further road shows will be booked and moving pictures will be presented exclusively. The cost of the work in hand is \$40,000.

The Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors have hit upon a novel arrangement in connection with the deletion of lines in sound-on-disc films. With the release of the sound version of "Lilac Time," the censors required an undertaking from the exhibitors and projectionists that a mechanical fade-out would be effected in the sound dialogue when certain lines were reached, as designated. The film was approved on the understanding that this would be done at every presentation so that the audiences would not catch the words.

Douglas Fairbanks' "The Iron Mask" went over so big as the first audien at the Centre Theatre, Ottawa, in the face of considerable competition, that it was held over for a second week, that of May 4, by Manager Don Stapleton.

The Provincial Cabinet of Quebec has announced the appointment of J. A. St. Germain of Montreal as the inspector of all moving picture theatres throughout the Province of Quebec. He has been attached to the Quebec Board of Moving Picture Censors at Montreal.

Regina Amateur Cinema Club Begin to Shoot Pictures

Special to Digest From Winnipeg.

THE whirr of the motion picture camera, the terse orders, "Shoot" and "Cut," and miscellaneous sounds incidental to the filming of a motion picture, were heard in the vicinity of Regina, Sask., during the week-end, when work commenced on the "shooting" of the first production of the newly formed Regina Amateur Cinema Club.

UNDER the direction of W. H. Bird, who had also prepared the scenario, a comedy-drama of the Saskatchewan wheat fields, employing the tentative title, "Prairie Trails," had been selected for the club's initial effort. The cast included several principals as well as several minor characters. A jail-house, a farm home and the streets of a western city are important settings for the early scenes of this "movie."

THE constitution of the club was adopted at a general meeting last week, held at Bird Films, Regina, and following the business session a six-reel feature picture, "Prep and Pep," was given a private screening so that Mr. Bird, president of the club, might have an opportunity to give the members some useful pointers on motion picture technique.

The membership of the club has already reached 20 and both the playing and technical departments of the initial picture are now filled.

The Master Sound Equipment Company has been established at Montreal, Quebec, with offices in the Albee Building, for the handling in Canada of the Master Sound non-synchronized instrument. The company is also stocking special records with cue sheet service. Announcement is made that the device may be augmented for the presentation of synchronized pictures by the addition of appropriate units when required.

The Quebec Provincial Government, in its campaign against Sunday shows, is carrying out an arrangement with the Canadian Post Office Department for the use of special stamp collection postmarks reading "Observe Sunday" on all letters mailed in cities and towns of Quebec. The words appear in both English and French. The legend is part of a campaign to educate the people and arouse them against Sunday performances.

Inmates of the Montreal Home for the Blind and of the School for the Blind were the guests of Manager George Rotsky at the Palace Theatre, Montreal, for a presentation of "Broadway Melody." Previous to their arrival at the theatre the afflicted persons had been given an outline of the film story. In a joint letter of thanks to Mr. Rotsky after the performance these blind people told how the entertainment had proved to be a wonderful treat.

Round About the Studios



Madeline Carroll, appearing in "What Money Can Buy", for Gaumont British.

WITH the signing of Norman Trevor and Clarissa Selwynne for the parts of Judge and Mrs. Cadwallader, Universal announces that the cast of "Evidence," new talking picture now in production with William Wyler directing, is complete.

"Evidence," a screen original by Edward J. Montagne, stars Laura La Plante with Neil Hamilton playing the leading masculine part. Jocelyn Lee is the second feminine lead, playing the part of Bunny, and Robert Ellis, who recently played the "heavy" in "Broadway," is doing the man-about-town villain.

Howard Rogers, one of the youngest but most prolific scenarists in Hollywood, has been signed to write the adaptation of Mary Roberts Rhinehart's short story "Acquitted," which will be brought to the screen as a Columbia special talking production.

"The Leatherneck," William Boyd's latest Pathe starring vehicle is in its second week at the Cameo in New York, where it has bettered the excellent box-office record registered by "The Godless Girl" which ran three weeks as the opening picture of the new sound policy of this popular house.



Scene from "The Power of Silence," a Tiffany production, starring Belle Bennett. Playing Shea's Hippodrome, Toronto, week of May 12th.

HARRY LACHMAN, who went to Europe and became a director for British International Pictures, is also an artist of note, and has paintings in the National Museum, of England, and the Luxembourg in Paris. Mr. Lachman's latest screen production is "Week-End Wives," which World Wide Pictures has brought to America.

Lloyd Hamilton who already has made his debut in talking pictures and is now working on his second all-dialogue comedy for Educational release, has numerous old picture favorites in the supporting cast of this second production, titled "Don't Be Nervous." Mahlon Hamilton, one-time noted leading man in silent pictures, has one of the principal supporting roles, while Leo White, prominently connected in the past with many Charles Chaplin comedies, also has much to do in this second talking laugh film which Hamilton is making.

Rita LeRoy has been chosen for the leading lady. William Watson, who was responsible for the fine direction in Hamilton's first talking comedy, again is directing, from a story by Gil Pratt.

Carl Laemmle, Jr., whose next work under his associate producer title will be "The King of Jazz," in which Paul Whiteman will star under the direction of Paul Fejos, is twenty-one years old. He reached his majority on the 28th of April and the event was fittingly celebrated at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles by a banquet given by the stars, directors and heads of departments at Universal City. Among the stars from other studios who were present were Charles Chaplin, Harry Langdon and Rudolph Schildkraut.

Bert Wheeler, one of the foremost revue funsters in musical comedy and vaudeville, has been engaged by William Le Baron for "Rio Rita," the Florenz Ziegfeld musical show to be filmed under the Radio Pictures banner. He was one of the comedy stars in this stage production. Bert will talk, sing and strut his stuff with Bob Woolsey, his partner in comedy.

Mae Murray, who has just signed a long term contract with Tiffany-Stahl, expects to be in New York in the next four weeks when she will go in consultation with Mr. Grant L. Cook to outline the plans for her first production which will probably be "Peacock Alley," an all-talking and singing production. At the present time Miss Murray is appearing in the middle west with her stage act in which she is creating a sensation.

Willard Mack, who wrote the dialogue for the talking picture version of "Madame X," now at the Sam H. Harris Theatre, not only is the author of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Voice of the City," but also directed this picture and plays the principal role. For years Mack has been prominent in the theatrical world as a playwright who starred in many of his own creations and also served as stage director of them. Last fall he was signed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to do talking picture work. His produced stage plays number eighty-five.



Scene from "The Trial of Mary Dugan," starring Norma Shearer, and ably supported by Raymond Hackett. A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer release.

"POOR LITTLE MARY DUGAN" is the latest song number to flow from Gus Edward's busy piano. The noted songster composed the number after witnessing "The Trial of Mary Dugan" and dedicated it to Norma Shearer, who has the title role in the all-talking production by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. It is the plan of studio officials to have the number published and placed on sale in conjunction with the showing of the big dramatic sound special.

John Miljan, who has played in "The Terror," "Stark Mad" and several other Warner Brothers talking pictures, has been signed by Paramount to play the role of the other man in "The Concert," soon to go into production in Hollywood as Adolphe Menjou's first dialogue film. "The Concert" is adapted from the celebrated stage play by Herman Bahr.

Thelma Todd has signed a five-year contract with Hal Roach to appear as leading woman in his two-reel comedies.



Lillian Hall-Davis, a World Wide star, plays an important part in "Tommy Atkins."

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